

REMARKS

A new claim is presented herewith for consideration during examination.

In the parent application, the patents to Goeckel (French 794,776), Shinomiya et al (4,506,577), Senftleben (3,364,803) and Amada Company (French 2,344,364) were relied upon in rejections under §103. It is believed that the present claims distinguish over these references, considered singly or in any proper combination.

The present invention is directed to a cutting apparatus with circular blades which is releasably coupled to a driving unit having a motor. This is clearly different from any of the cited references. In each case, a motor is firmly and non-releasably connected to the blades. In Shinomiya et al, for example, drive shafts 20 and 22 are connected to the blade shafts by gears.

The reason for the releasable coupling is to permit an individual cutter head to be disengaged from the drive and optionally from the support structure so that blades can be changed without having to shut down the entire cutting system. As will be appreciated, cutters of this type are advantageously operated in groups, making multiple slits in a sheet of metal, and blade changing is a fairly frequent necessity.

In addition, the present claims require a non-positive connection between upper and lower blades and between the motor and the blades. In the apparatus of the invention, one blade is driven

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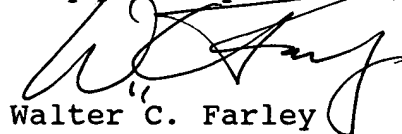
by the drive unit motor and the one blade drives another. This arrangement is not possible with apparatus such as Goeckel, for example, because the apparatus is designed to be operated with a gap between the blades, eliminating frictional engagement between the blades and removing the possibility of driving one blade with the other. While blade gap adjustments may be old in the art, a showing of no frictional engagement cannot be said to render obvious driving one blade with the other.

Senftleben would teach to one skilled in the art that the blades should be driven by motor-driven shafts which necessitates the kind of adjustment discussed in the specification of the present application at page 1, line 22 to page 2, line 22. This teaches nothing which would lead to the invention.

The other references similarly fail to teach that which would be necessary to arrive at the claimed invention.

Thus, it is submitted that the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and that the claims now in the application should receive favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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